

Exhibition “*Cities of New York*”
Musei Capitolini (Capitoline Museums), Centrale Montemartini
10 September – 9 October 2011

Italian artist Franco Fontana defined photography as *the art of making the invisible visible* in an interview published in the catalogue accompanying his successful exhibition titled *Cento volte America*. Fontana, one of the many excellent photographers featured in this exhibition, was not referring only to the ability to capture in a single shot details that the eye might have overlooked, but instead the opportunity to freeze forever atmosphere, tone, aura, single emotions or a chorus of emotions. A look at his photographs, as well as those of the many excellent artists in **Cities of New York**, is enough to immediately grasp this idea.

This is an exhibition not only to honor the tenth anniversary of September 11 but also to complement, with the visual arts, the homage that Rome Compagnia per la Musica will give to the Big Apple and the victims and survivors of the Twin Towers at *The September Concert*. New York, navel of the world, is a melting pot of diverse civilizations, cultures, communities and identities. New York, shows the incredible versatility of its community, reborn again as the city where everything is big, important, fast, always looking forward as did the Italian Futurists. Indeed, this is an exhibition to celebrate New York City, and to remember a tragic day that America and the world will never forget. For this reason the exhibition features U.S. and Italian photographers – from Allan Tannenbaum, a straightforward and clear-headed witness, to Ackerman, Basilico, Bobba, Bucarelli, Caltagirone, Croppi, Ferrari, Gentili, as well as Fontana who captures a crowd which seems to be floating in a magical light, and Maurizio Galimberti who breaks down and reassembles the clear city sky from where the horror of September 11 originated.

This is an exciting exhibition because for each image, you have only to look to understand the artists’ intent. To complete the mosaic, the paintings of Susan Crile, images from the film *Rebirth*, which moved and inspired the *Sundance Film Festival*, and a video by Jay One. *Rebirth* and all these other works indicate that instead of being paralyzed by the violent actions of a few, the vast majority of people around the world focus on seeking a better future for themselves and their children: higher levels of education, creating new economic opportunities and improving government systems. After all, New York always has been the most beloved city, the most painted and photographed by artists from all over the world. This was so before the attack and will continue to be so.

A show that brings out emotion, pain, surprise, flexibility, hope and faith in the future: just like the very city to which this exhibition is dedicated.

Fleur Cowan
Acting Cultural Attaché